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LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, I wish, on behalf of my Government, to report that the United States has exercised its right of self-defence by responding to the Government of Iraq's unlawful attempt to murder the former Chief Executive of the United States Government, President George Bush, and to its continuing threat to United States nationals.

The Government of Iraq bears direct responsibility for the failed attempt to assassinate the former President of the United States for actions he took while he was President. The United States has reached this conclusion based on clear and compelling evidence of the Government of Iraq's actions in the attempted murder.

Based on the pattern of the Government of Iraq's behaviour, including the disregard for international law and Security Council resolutions, the United States has concluded that there is no reasonable prospect that new diplomatic initiatives or economic measures can influence the current Government of Iraq to cease planning future attacks against the United States. Accordingly, as a last resort, the United States has decided that it is necessary to respond to the attempted attack and the threat of further attacks by striking at an Iraqi military and intelligence target that is involved in such attacks. The United States has chosen its target carefully so as to minimize risks of collateral damage to civilians.

It is the sincere hope of the United States Government that such limited and proportionate action may frustrate future unlawful actions on the part of the Government of Iraq and discourage or preempt such activities.

In light of the above, my Government hereby requests an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

In view of the seriousness of the Government of Iraq's actions, it is requested that you circulate the text of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Madeleine ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to the United Nations

93-37375 (E) 270693 270693